

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NRC-05 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 FEAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 230907Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 364

USERDA GERMANTOWN

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E.9. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: APRIL 26 NRC ANNOUNCEMENT ON BWR,S

REF: A) STATE 97118, 2) TOKYO 6006

DEPT JUSTIN BLOOM, OES

A.S. FRIEDMAN, ERDA, PLEASE PASS TO LAFLEUR, NRC

1. ERDA TOKYO SCIREPS MET WITH T. YOSHIOKA, ANAGING DIRECTOR AND H. NASU, MANAGER DEVELOPMENT & PLANNNNG, JAPAN ATOMIC POWER CO. AT THEIR REQUEST TO DISCCUSS SUBJECT RELEASE AND JAPCO CONCERN ABOUT INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPING BETWEEN JAPAN AND US NUCELAR ORGANIZATIONS AS CONSEQUENCE.

2. REF 2 EXPRESSED GO CONCERN THAT RELEASE OF INFO ON JAPANESE REACTOR PRIOR TO FULL COOORDINATION WITH GOJ HARMFUL TO RELATION JAPANESE UTILITIES AND US REACTOR MANUFACTURERS (RM'S). GE INDICATED BELIEF THAT JAPANESE UTILITIES WOULD CEASE TO COMMUNICATE PROMPTLY AND FULLY WITH US RM'S THEREBY CUTTIIG RM'S AND NRC OUT OF PICTURE.IN SUCH INSTANCE, SAFETY PROBLEMS UNEARTHED IN JPANESE MUCLEAR PLANTS WOULD OT, REPEAT NOT, BE COMMUNICATED PROMPTLY AND FULLY TO US, LEAVING US NJCLEAR
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COMMUNITY UNAWARE OF INCIPIENT SAFETY PROBLEM. GE ALSO OF

COURSE CONCERNED ABOUT GE'S RELATION TO JAPANESE UTILITY CUSTOMERS AND CONSIDERS RELATIONSHIP SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED.

3. JAPCO EXECUTIVES REINFORCED GE CONCERN AND CONFIRMED THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO REPORT FULLY AND PROMPTLY AND TO SOLICIT GE TECHNICAL ADVICE IF PROCEDURES NOT REPEAT NOT CHANGED.

4. SCIREP INDICATED CURRENT PROCEDURE ALLOWS FOR CHECK WITH AEB (FUKUNAGA) BUT BECAUSE OF UNFORTUNATE TIMING IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE RELEASE WENT OUT BEFORE AEB'S CONCURRENCE OR INPUT COULD BE OBTAINED.

5. JAPANESE NOT REPEAT NOT CONVINCED PROCEDURE OK IF IT DOESN'T WORK. JAPANESE NOT REPEAT NOT CONVINCED URGENCY OF RELEASE IN US SUCH THAT JAPANESE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN GIVEN ONE OR TWO WORKING DAYS TO COORDINATE AND CONCUR. (FOR REFERENCE SCIREP NOTIFIED BY PHONE MID AFTERNOON SATURDAY APRIL 26, UNABLE TO CONTACT FUKUNAGA UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON, THEREFORE MET WITH AEB STAFF UNTIL FUKUNAGA LOCATED. NRC STATEMENT RELEASED 1 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 27 TOKYO TIME, LEAVING FUKUNAGA WITH ESSENTIALLY NO REPEAT NO OPPORTUNITY TO COORDINATE OR PROVIDE INPUT BACK TO NRC.)

6. JAPANESE CONFIRMED DISTINCTION BETWEEN JAPANESE AND US APPROACHES (REFTEL PARA. 5) THAT WHILE US RELEASES MADE AS SOON AS OCCURRENCE KNOWN, JAPANESE SYSTEM PERMITS UTILITY TO REPORT ONLY "INFORMALLY" UNTIL PHENOMENON UNDERSTOOD AND REMEDIAL ACTION DECIDED UPON. AT THAT TIME "FORMAL" WELL-COORDINATED REPORT MADE TO AEB AND AEB RELEASE MADE TO PRESS.

7. JAPCO REQUESTS NRC CONSIDER FOLLOWING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES IN CASE JAPANESE REACTOR INVOLVED;

A. APPROPRIATE JAPANESE UTILITY BE BROUGHT INTO PICTURE SO THAT VERIFICATION CAN BE MADE ON FACT THAT A SAFETY PROBLEM ACTUALLY EXISTS.

B. AEB CONCURRENCE BE OBTAINED BEFORE ISSUANCE OF RELEASE.

C. IF RELEASE NOT FULLY COORDINATED WITH JAPANESE, MENTION OF OR REFERENCE TO JAPANESE REACTOR BE AVOIDED.
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8. JAPCO INDICATED LETTER IN PREPARATION TO SCIREP STATING CONCERN AND REQUESTING RESPONSE.

9. IT IS CONCLUDED THAT:

A. WHILE NO (OR VERY LITTLE) PRESS OR PUBLIC RESPONSE WAS VOICED IN JAPAN ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, IT POTENTIALLY CONSTITUTED A VERY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM TO JAEA WHO IS EXCESSIVELY, BY US STANDARDS, CONCERNED ABOUT IMAGE BEFORE

PUBLKC.

B. STRONG REACTION (PROBABLY SOMEWHAT OVERDRAMATIZED) BY
US RM AND JAPANESE UTILITY WILL REQUIRE SME RESPONSE.

C. WHILE JAPANESE REQUESTS CHANGE IN PROCEDURE, SCIREP
BELEIVES THAT PRESENT PROCEDURE OF COORDINATING WITH AEB
COULD BE MADE PALATABLE PROVIDING IT IS FORMALIZED AND
SCRUPULOUSLY ADHERED TO. COORDINATION THROUGHTOUT
JAPANESE COMMUNIUTY THEREBY ACCOMODATING 7A ABOVE CAN BE
AEB RESPONSIBILITY.
HODGSON

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